ORIGINAL

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE
PASAY CITY

Impeachment Court

IN THE MATTER OF:

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF VICE PRESIDENT SARA ZIMMERMAN DUTERTE,

Case No. 004-2026

x----------x

MANIFESTATION

Respondent Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, through counsel, respectfully states:

1. On June 9, 2026, respondent received through counsel a Notice of Pre-Trial Conference issued by the Honorable Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian[1] who signed the same as the "Presiding Officer". In said Notice, the parties were informed that "*the Pre-Trial Conference for the Impeachment Trial of the respondent is scheduled to take place at 9:00 a.m. on June 18, 2026 before the Secretary of the Senate as Clerk of Court of the Impeachment Court*"[2] and directed them "*to attend said pre-trial conference personally or through counsel*"[3], among others.

2. However, it will be recalled that when the Senate formally convened as this Impeachment Court on May 18, 2026, the Honorable Senator Alan Peter S. Cayetano[4] acted as its Presiding Officer and Atty. Jose Luis G. Montales[5] was designated as the Clerk of Court of the Impeachment Court concomitant with the latter's office as Senate Secretary. The following day, May 19, 2026, Summons was issued by the Hon. Senator Cayetano who signed the same as "Presiding Officer" directing the respondent to answer the Articles of Impeachment within a non-extendible period of ten (10) calendar days from receipt.[6]

3. In said Summons, the Hon. Senator Cayetano likewise reminded the respondent to "*abide by, obey, and perform such orders, directions, and judgments as the Senate of the Philippines sitting as the Impeachment Court shall make according to the Constitution and laws of the Philippines*".[7]

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[1] Hereafter, "Hon. Sen. Gatchalian"
[2] Notice of Pre-Trial Conference issued and signed by Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian dated June 9, 2026, p.1
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] Hereafter, "Hon. Sen. Cayetano"
[5] Hereafter, "Atty. Montales"
[6] Summons dated May 19, 2019 issued and signed by Senator Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano as Presiding Officer, p.1
[7] *Ibid.*

4. Thereafter, on June 3, 2026, the respondent received through counsel a Letter of even date with an attached Calendar for the impeachment trial. Said letter was signed by Atty. Montales as "Clerk of Court".[8]

5. However, also on the same day, media outlets reported on the election of the Hon. Sen. Gatchalian as Senate President Pro Tempore and the appointment of Atty. Renato N. Bantug, Jr. as the Senate Secretary, in a session where twelve members of the Senate are present.

6. Since then, both the Hon. Sen. Gatchalian and Hon. Sen. Cayetano have claimed as either the Acting President/President Pro Tempore or President of the Senate as well as the Presiding Officer of the Impeachment Court, and with the other members of the Senate also expressing their respective legal stance on the issue.

7. In light of these circumstances, the respondent respectfully manifests that while she is ready to proceed with the trial and to abide by lawful orders and processes of this Honorable Court, the foregoing conflicting orders and issuances arising from the leadership dispute of the Senate and by necessary consequence, affecting the impeachment court and its conduct of the proceedings in this case, give rise to emerging and substantial concerns regarding their impact on her constitutional rights, including the constitutional safeguards under Section 3(6), Article XI of the Constitution.

8. Thus, respondent respectfully manifests that the issues concerning Senate leadership, quorum, and the interpretation of constitutional voting requirements have given rise to serious constitutional questions that may ultimately require authoritative resolution at the appropriate forum.

9. Pending such determination or conclusion of said dispute, respondent's participation in these proceedings and response to any directives as well as attendance in any hearings or conference set by this Honorable Court are expressly without waiver of any of her rights, legal remedies, or objections available under the law, rules, and Constitution, and that she does so out of respect for this Honorable Court and orderly conduct of the proceedings.

Explanation of Service

A copy of this Manifestation is being served upon the public prosecutors via electronic mail pursuant to the Notice of Pre-Trial Conference dated June 9, 2026 due to distance and time constraints which render personal service impractical and inefficient.

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[8] Letter dated June 3, 2026 signed by Atty. Jose Luis G. Montales as "Clerk of Court"

Makati City, June 15, 2026

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By:

[redacted]

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DAVID RONELL M. GOLLA VII
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- and -

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Copy furnished:

The Prosecution Panel
House of Representatives
Batasang Pambansa Complex
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
[redacted]

4193-1-07

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY)ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, **DAVID RONELL M. GOLLA VII,** of legal age, and subscribing under oath, depose and say:

1. I am an employee of the law firm of **FORTUN NARVASA & SALAZAR LAW OFFICES**, with business address at 23rd Floor, Multinational Bancorporation Centre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City;

2. On June 15, 2026, I served copies of "**MANIFESTATION**" in the case entitled "**IN THE MATTER OF: IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF VICE PRESIDENT SARA ZIMMERMAN DUTERTE**" docketed as "***Case No. 004-2026***" before the **Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City, Impeachment Court**, in the following manner:

2.1 **The Prosecution Panel**
House of Representatives
Batasang Pambansa Complex
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
[redacted]

_____ by electronic mail.

Makati City, June 15, 2026.

[redacted]
DAVID RONELL M. GOLLA VII

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 15th day of June, 2026, affiant being personally known to me, exhibited his Philippine Passport No. P8329401B valid until November 28, 2031 as competent proof of his identity.

Doc. No. 346;
Page No. 70;
Book No III;
Series of 2026

4193-1-07

[redacted]
FRANCESCA MARIE V. FLORES
Notary Public of Makati
Appointment No. M-010
Commission until December 31, 2027
Roll of Attorneys No. 94764
PTR No. 10767910; 01-05-2026; Makati City
IBP No. 566505; 12-16-2025; Makati City Chapter
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